

Mel Brooks: Genius and Loving It: Freedom and Liberation in the Cinema of Mel Brooks

Thomas A. Christie

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MEL BROOKS **GENIUS AND LOVING IT!**



**Freedom and Liberation
In the Cinema of Mel Brooks**

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#4267050 in Books 2015-11-09 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.21 x .91 x 6.141, 1.24 #File Name: 1861715102404 pages | File size: 65.Mb

Thomas A. Christie : Mel Brooks: Genius and Loving It: Freedom and Liberation in the Cinema of Mel Brooks before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mel Brooks: Genius and Loving It: Freedom and Liberation in the Cinema of Mel Brooks:

Mel Brooks: Genius and Loving It Freedom and Liberation in the Cinema of Mel Brooks by Thomas A. Christie

Beloved by his fans and equally praised and derided by the critics many times throughout his long career, Mel Brooks is a creative polymath, a comic talent to be reckoned with - influential, fearless and totally unafraid of his detractors. Yet whether you admire his work or not, one thing remains absolutely certain: this larger-than-life character is a very difficult man to ignore. Mel Brooks has been immortalised as the definitive maestro of big-screen bad taste, a pioneer of the cinematic spoof (and very influential, too - you can see Brooks influence in many places today). But throughout his film-making career, his ardent championship of personal liberty is too often neglected. Examining all eleven of the movies that Brooks directed, from *The Producers* (1968) to *Dracula: Dead and Loving It* (1995), this book examines the way that this most distinctive of cinematic visionaries came to earnestly and vigourously defend freedom in all of its forms, whether creative, individual, social, cultural or political. As well as famous films like *The Producers* (If you've got it, flaunt it, baby!), *Blazing Saddles*, *Young Frankenstein* (*Frankenstein? Fronkensteen*), this book also looks at lesser-known Brooks movies such as *12 Chairs*, *Silent Movie* and *Life Stinks*. Includes a detailed filmography, movie statistics, examples of critical opinions, a guide to further reading, and a bibliography. Fully illustrated, with stills from all of Mel Brooks movies. ISBN 9781861715104. 404 pages. www.crmoon.com

Thomas Christie's scholarship is as always immaculate. Full marks to him for another informative, well written and erudite guide to a neglected director and episode of film history.' (Review of *John Hughes and Eighties Cinema*) Douglas J. Allen (Lecturer in Social Sciences, Motherwell College)